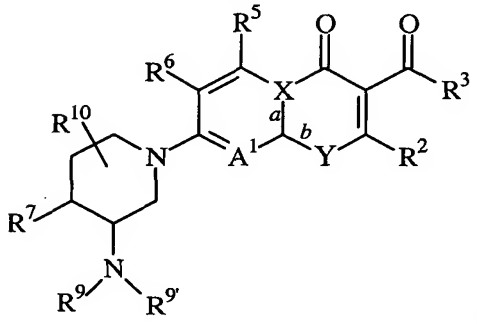
What is claimed is:

1. A compound having a structure according to Formula (I)



(I)

wherein:

(A) (1) A^1 is selected from -N- and -C(R^8)-, where R^8 is selected from hydrogen, halo, C_1 to about C_6 alkoxy, C_1 to about C_6 alkylthio, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene and alkyne;

(2) (a) X is selected from -C- and -N-, where (i) if X is -C-, *a* is a double bond and *b* is a single bond, and (ii) if X is -N-, *a* is a single bond and *b* is a double bond; and

(b) Y is selected from -N(R^1)- and -C(R^1)-;

(c) provided that Y is N(R^1) only if X is -C- and Y is -C(R^1)- only if X is -N-;

(3) R^1 is selected from C_3 to about C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4 to about C_6 heterocycloalkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene, a 6-membered aryl and a 6-membered heteroaryl;

(4) R^2 is hydrogen;

(5) R^3 is selected from hydrogen and hydroxy;

(6) R^5 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, halo, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene-and C_1 to about C_6 alkoxy;

(7) R^6 is selected from fluoro and chloro;

(8) R^7 is -Q-C(R^{11})($R^{11'}$)($R^{11''}$), where Q is selected from -S-, -O- and -C(R^{12})($R^{12'}$)-, where R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen and fluoro; where R^{11}, $R^{11'}$ and $R^{11''}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy and halo; and where R^{11} and R^{12} may also both be nil, such that a double bond is formed between the respective carbon atoms;

(9) R^9 and $R^{9'}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_1 to about C_{15} alkyl, or R^9 and $R^{9'}$ join to form a heterocyclic ring containing the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded; and

(10) R^{10} represents the moieties on the piperidine ring other than R^7 and $-NR^9R^{9'}$, where each R^{10} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl and fluoro; or

(B) if A^1 is $-C(R^8)-$, X is -C- and Y is $-N(R^1)-$, then R^8 and R^1 can join to form a 6-membered heterocyclic ring, where R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, $R^{9'}$ and R^{10} are as described in (A); or

(C) if A^1 is $-C(R^8)-$, X is -C- and Y is $-N(R^1)-$, then R^1 and R^2 can join to form a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic ring, where R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, $R^{9'}$ and R^{10} are as described in (A); or

(D) if A^1 is $-C(R^8)-$, X is -C- and Y is $-N(R^1)-$, then R^2 and R^3 can join to form a 5-membered heterocycloalkyl that is substituted with a carbonyl moiety, where R^1, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, $R^{9'}$ and R^{10} are as described in (A);

or an optical isomer, diastereomer or enantiomer thereof; a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, hydrate, or biohydrolyzable ester, amide or imide thereof.

2. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^1 is selected from C_3 to about C_6 cycloalkyl, C_3 to about C_6 heterocycloalkyl, C_1 to about C_4 alkyl and C_2 to about C_4 alkene.

3. A compound of Claim 2 wherein R^1 is selected from cyclopropyl, methyl, ethyl, t-butyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl and 2,4-difluorophenyl.

4. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^3 is hydroxy.

5. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^5 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, chloro, bromo, amino, methyl, monofluoromethyl, difluoromethyl and trifluoromethyl.

6. A compound of Claim 1 wherein each of R^{11}, $R^{11'}$ and $R^{11''}$ is hydrogen.

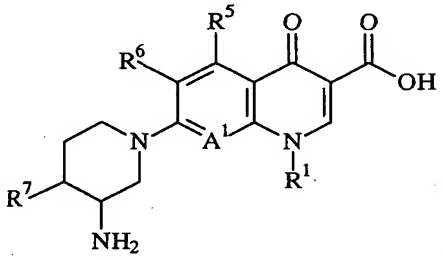
7. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^7 is selected from methoxy, thiomethoxy and ethyl.

8. A compound of Claim 7 wherein R^7 is ethyl.

9. A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^9 and $R^{9'}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen and methyl.

10. A compound of Claim 9 wherein R^9 and $R^{9'}$ are both hydrogen and each R^{10} is hydrogen.

11. A compound having a structure according to Formula (II)



(II)

wherein:

(A) (1) A^1 is selected from -N- and -C(R^8)- where R^8 is selected from hydrogen, halo, C_1 to about C_6 alkoxy, C_1 to about C_6 alkylthio, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene and C_1 to about C_6 alkyne;

(2) R^1 is selected from C_3 to about C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4 to about C_6 heterocycloalkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene, a 6-membered aryl and a 6-membered heteroaryl;

(5) R^5 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, halo, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene-and C_1 to about C_6 alkoxy;

(6) R^6 is selected from fluoro and chloro; and

(7) R^7 is -Q-C(R^{11})($R^{11'}$)($R^{11''}$), where Q is selected from -S-, -O- and -C(R^{12})($R^{12'}$)-, where R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen and fluoro; where R^{11}, $R^{11'}$ and $R^{11''}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy and halo; and where R^{11} and R^{12} may also both be nil, such that a double bond is formed between the respective carbon atoms; or

(B) R^8 and R^1 join to form a 6-membered heterocyclic ring, where R^5, R^6 and R^7 are as described in part (A);

or an optical isomer, diastereomer or enantiomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, hydrate, or biohydrolyzable ester, amide or imide thereof.

12. A compound of Claim 11 wherein A^1 is -C(R^8)-.

13. A compound of Claim 12 wherein R^6 is fluoro.

14. A compound of Claim 12 wherein R^8 and R^1 do not join to form a 6-membered heterocyclic ring.

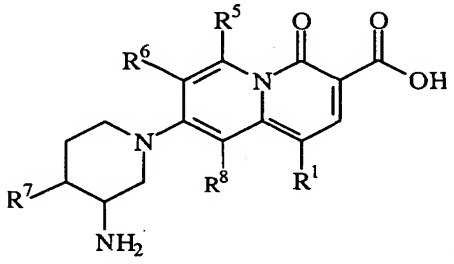
15. A compound of Claim 14 wherein R^1 is selected from cyclopropyl, methyl, ethyl, t-butyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl and 2,4-difluorophenyl.

16. A compound of Claim 13 wherein R^5 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, chloro, bromo, amino, methyl, monofluoromethyl, difluoromethyl and trifluoromethyl.

17. A compound of Claim 13 wherein R^7 is selected from methoxy, thiomethoxy and ethyl.

18. A compound of Claim 17 wherein R^7 is ethyl.

19. A compound having a structure according to Formula (III)



(III)

wherein:

(A) (1) R^8 is selected from hydrogen, halo, C_1 to about C_6 alkoxy, C_1 to about C_6 alkylthio, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene and C_1 to about C_6 alkyne;

(2) R^1 is selected from C_3 to about C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4 to about C_6 heterocycloalkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene, a 6-membered aryl and a 6-membered heteroaryl;

(5) R^5 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, halo, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene-and C_1 to about C_6 alkoxy;

(6) R^6 is selected from fluoro and chloro;

(7) R^7 is -Q-$C(R^{11})(R^{11'})(R^{11''})$, where Q is selected from -S-, -O- and -$C(R^{12})(R^{12'})$-, where R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen and fluoro; where R^{11}, $R^{11'}$ and $R^{11''}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy and halo; and where R^{11} and R^{12} may also both be nil, such that a double bond is formed the respective carbon atoms;

or an optical isomer, diastereomer or enantiomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, hydrate, or biohydrolyzable ester, amide or imide thereof.

20. A compound of Claim 19 wherein R^6 is fluoro.

21. A compound of Claim 20 wherein R^1 is selected from cyclopropyl, methyl, ethyl, t-butyl, 4-hydroxyphenyl and 2,4-difluorophenyl.

22. A compound of Claim 20 wherein R^5 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, chloro, bromo, amino, methyl, monofluoromethyl, difluoromethyl and trifluoromethyl.

23. A compound of Claim 20 wherein R^7 is selected from methoxy, thiomethoxy and ethyl.

24. A compound of Claim 23 wherein R^7 is ethyl.

25. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a safe and effective amount of a compound of Claim 1; and

(b) a pharmaceutically-acceptable excipient.

26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a safe and effective amount of a compound of Claim 11; and

(b) a pharmaceutically-acceptable excipient.

27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a safe and effective amount of a compound of Claim 19; and

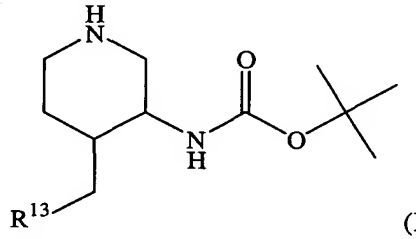
(b) a pharmaceutically-acceptable excipient.

28. A method for treating microbial infection comprising administering to a host in need of such a treatment a safe and antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

29. A method for treating microbial infection comprising administering to a host in need of such a treatment a safe and antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of Claim 11.

30. A method for treating microbial infection comprising administering to a host in need of such a treatment a safe and antimicrobially effective amount of a compound of Claim 19.

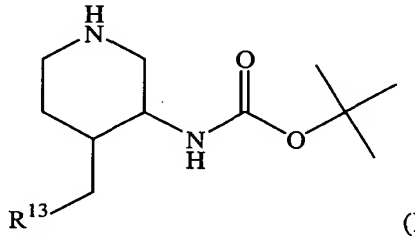
31. A compound having a structure according to Formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R^{13} is selected from methyl, fluoro, and hydroxy;
or an optical isomer, diastereomer or enantiomer thereof, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, hydrate, or biohydrolyzable ester, amide or imide thereof.

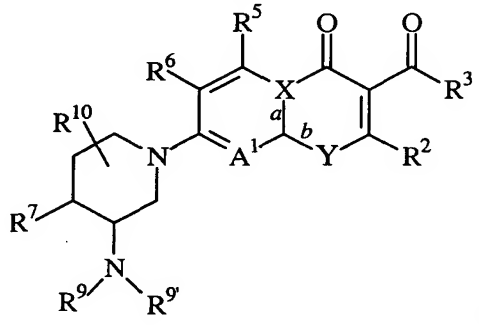
32. A method of using a compound having a structure according to Formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein R^{13} is selected from methyl, fluoro, and hydroxy;

in a process of making a compound having a structure according to Formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

(A) (1) A^1 is selected from -N- and -C(R^8)-, where R^8 is selected from hydrogen, halo, C_1 to about C_6 alkoxy, C_1 to about C_6 alkylthio, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene and alkyne;

(2) (a) X is selected from -C- and -N-, where (i) if X is -C-, *a* is a double bond and *b* is a single bond, and (ii) if X is -N-, *a* is a single bond and *b* is a double bond; and

(b) Y is selected from -N(R^1)- and -C(R^1)-;

(c) provided that Y is N(R^1) only if X is -C- and Y is -C(R^1)- only if X is -N-;

(3) R^1 is selected from C_3 to about C_6 cycloalkyl, C_4 to about C_6 heterocycloalkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene, a 6-membered aryl and a 6-membered heteroaryl;

(4) R^2 is hydrogen;

(5) R^3 is selected from hydrogen and hydroxy;

(6) R^5 is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, amino, halo, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl, C_1 to about C_6 alkene-and C_1 to about C_6 alkoxy;

(7) R^6 is selected from fluoro and chloro;

(8) R^7 is -Q-C(R^{11})($R^{11'}$)($R^{11''}$), where Q is selected from -S-, -O- and -C(R^{12})($R^{12'}$)-, where R^{12} and $R^{12'}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen and fluoro; where R^{11}, $R^{11'}$ and $R^{11''}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy and halo; and where R^{11} and R^{12} may also both be nil, such that a double bond is formed between the respective carbon atoms;

(9) R^9 and $R^{9'}$ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_1 to about C_{15} alkyl, or R^9 and $R^{9'}$ join to form a heterocyclic ring containing the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded; and

(10) R^{10} represents the moieties on the piperidine ring other than R^7 and $-NR^9R^{9'}$, where each R^{10} is independently selected from hydrogen, C_1 to about C_6 alkyl and fluoro; or

(B) if A^1 is $-C(R^8)-$, X is -C- and Y is $-N(R^1)-$, then R^8 and R^1 can join to form a 6-membered heterocyclic ring, where R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, $R^{9'}$ and R^{10} are as described in (A); or

(C) if A^1 is $-C(R^8)-$, X is -C- and Y is $-N(R^1)-$, then R^1 and R^2 can join to form a monocyclic or bicyclic heterocyclic ring, where R^3, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, $R^{9'}$ and R^{10} are as described in (A); or

(D) if A^1 is $-C(R^8)-$, X is -C- and Y is $-N(R^1)-$, then R^2 and R^3 can join to form a 5-membered heterocycloalkyl that is substituted with a carbonyl moiety, where R^1, R^5, R^6, R^7, R^8, R^9, $R^{9'}$ and R^{10} are as described in (A);

or an optical isomer, diastereomer or enantiomer thereof; a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt, hydrate, or biohydrolyzable ester, amide or imide thereof.